

# California Poet Laureate Nomination Overview 2018

**Deadline: July 25, 2018**



## California Poet Laureate Overview

The California Arts Council is designated to recommend individuals to the Governor of California for the position of California Poet Laureate.

The role of the California Poet Laureate is to spread the art of poetry and encourage literacy and learning in California. The California Poet Laureate must provide a minimum of six public readings in urban and rural settings across California for the purpose of educating community, business, and state leaders about the value and importance of poetry and creative expression. Additionally, the California Poet Laureate will undertake a significant cultural project that extends through a two-year term. One of the goals of this project must be to bring the poetic arts to students who might otherwise have little opportunity to be exposed to poetry.

The California Poet Laureate may, and is encouraged to, coordinate their project with any similar project being undertaken by the current United States' Poet Laureate, and any other reasonable activities as agreed to mutually by the California Poet Laureate and the California Arts Council. After being appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the State Senate, the Poet Laureate serves for a term of two (2) years.

## How to Nominate

Poet Laureate nominations may come from people in the field of literature (poets may also self-nominate) and must be emailed to [poetlaureate@arts.ca.gov](mailto:poetlaureate@arts.ca.gov).

## Nominations must contain the following:

- A cover letter from the nominating organization or individual describing the qualifications of the nominating organization or individual.
- The name and biography of the poet to be nominated (300 words maximum).  
Note: A competitive biography would include a summary of significant awards and published literary works.
- A link to a complete vita or website if available.
- A summary of no more than a half-page indicating why the nominating organization or individual considers the poet's work to be of the highest quality and representative of the State of California.
- Complete contact information for the nominated poet, including the following:
  - Name
  - Address
  - Email and website, if available
  - Phone
  - Mobile phone, if available

- Confirmation from the nominating organization or individual that the poet has reviewed the job description in the California Government Code ([Title 2, Div. 1, Chapter 9.5](#)) and agrees to the nomination.
- Three (3) poems by the nominated poet typed on 8 ½" x 11" papers, single-sided.
- A complete list of all published literary works.

## Eligibility

- Nominations shall be limited to current residents of California.
- Nominees must have lived in California for at least 10 years.

## Deadline

Nominations must be received via email by the California Arts Council by 5 p.m. on **July 25, 2018**. If you have questions, please email [poetlaureate@arts.ca.gov](mailto:poetlaureate@arts.ca.gov).

## Review Criteria

The Poet Laureate will be a poet who is:

- recognized for excellence of their work;
- widely considered to be a poet of stature;
- the author of a significant body of published work;
- and agrees to both
  - serve at the appointment of the Governor of California, the election of the state Legislature and the recommendation of the California Arts Council for a term of office of two years following Senate confirmation; and
  - undertake a significant cultural project that extends through the two-year term.

## Review Process

Each nomination will be reviewed for completeness. Incomplete nominations may not be considered.

The California Arts Council functions with the assistance of the peer-review panel system. The Poet Laureate panel will be comprised of no less than three (3) representatives of the poetry community chosen from a pool of literature experts.

The Poet Laureate panel will create a ranked list and the California Arts Council will present the top nominee recommendations to the Governor's Office.

## Notes:

- Nominators of the top poets sent to the Governor must supply a high-resolution digital photo.
- No nomination materials will be returned.